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- 3.— *Life and Character of the* REV. SYLVESTER JUDD. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1854. 12mo. pp. 513.

THIS book, which is just what such a book should be, brings vividly before us the life of one who was not without his eccentricities, but always a man of intellectual activity and power, of high aims, of large and generous sympathies, and whose fresh and original contributions to our American literature, having in themselves more than an ephemeral value, will now be read with increased interest by those who see in the work before us how pure and genuine was the source from which they came. We hope in a future number of our journal to give a more extended notice of Mr. Judd's life, character, and writings.

- 4.— *The Landing at Cape Anne; or, the Charter of the First Permanent Colony on the Territory of the Massachusetts Company, now discovered and first published from the Original Manuscript. With an Inquiry into its Authority, and a History of the Colony, 1624–1628, Roger Conant, Governor.* By JOHN WINGATE THORNTON. Boston: Gould and Lincoln. 1854. 8vo. pp. 84.

THIS monograph relates to a portion of the history of Massachusetts which has hitherto been somewhat obscure, and especially commemorates the worth and distinguished services of Roger Conant, whose name ought to lead the list of the Governors of Massachusetts. He came to Plymouth probably as early as 1622, and shortly afterwards withdrew to Nantasket with a little band of settlers, whose Puritanism was less rigid and exclusive than that of the main body. In 1624 he was invited to serve as Governor of a colony established at Cape Anne by the Dorchester Company, who held possession of that tract of territory as purchasers under a charter granted the previous year to Robert Cushman, Edward Winslow, and their associates at Plymouth. After two years and a half, reverses and discouragements led to the disbanding of the Cape Anne colony; but Conant by his prudence and energy was enabled to retain the best of the planters in the vicinity, removing with them to Naumkeag, now Salem. In 1628, he was superseded by Endicott under the Massachusetts Bay charter, and for the remaining half-century of his life he no more appears prominently in the affairs of the colony, though his name occurs several times in the records, and in connection with offices and trusts implying the general confidence. He was a man of eminent discretion, gentleness, and probity, though he

probably lacked some of the commanding elements of character, as he certainly did the sternness and austerity, that marked his successor. He felt, in the latter years of his life, that he was suffering unmerited neglect. In 1630 he had removed to the part of Salem which in 1668 was incorporated under the name of Beverly. In 1671, with thirty-four others, he petitioned the General Court that this name might be changed for that of his native place, Budleigh, and supported the prayer of said petition by a memorial of his own, commencing as follows: "The humble petition of Roger Conant, of Bass River alias Beverly, who hath bin a planter in New England fortie yeers and upwards, being one of the first, if not the very first, that resolved and made good any settlement, under God, in matter of plantation, with my family in this collony of the Massachusetts Bay, and have bin instrumental, both for the founding and carrying on of the same; and when in the infancy thereof it was in great hassard of being deserted, I was a means, through grace assisting me, to stop the flight of those few that were heere with me, and that by my utter deniall to goe away with them, who would have gon either for England, or mostly for Virginia, but thereupon stayed to the hassard of our lives." We rejoice that justice, though late, has been done to the venerable man, who, as founder and saviour of the infant colony, may proffer a double title to a place among the fathers of our Commonwealth. The whole work does credit to Mr. Thornton's zeal as an antiquary and candor as an historian.

5.—*The Female Prose-Writers of America. With Portraits, Biographical Notices, and Specimens of their Writings.* By JOHN S. HART, LL. D. New Edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia: E. H. Butler & Co. 1855. 8vo. pp. 536.

WE doubt whether this work could have been done better by any one man. We miss, indeed, some names that we should have inserted; and we are inclined to think that some of the writers, thus placed in the van of their department of literature, are surprised to find themselves famous. There are also a few slight oversights in the biographical sketches, especially in defining the present *status* of some of the subjects. In some instances, also, the extracts are too short, either to fix the reader's interest, or to present a fair specimen of the writer's ability. But, with these insignificant abatements, we thank the compiler for a highly entertaining and truly valuable work. It has enlarged our knowledge, and enhanced our favorable estimate of the female prose-writers of our country. It at the same time indicates the tale, story, or